

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01173 150933Z

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ACTION SS-30

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Z O 150919Z JUN 74 ZFF-6

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 840

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1173

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM SCOTES

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RICHARD NIXON)

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCING THE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

REF: A. JIDDA 3386; B. JIDDA 3403 (SECTO 55)

1. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY ELIAS PROPOSES THAT FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE TALKS AT PALACE BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN ZIEGLER AND PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY ELIAS PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO SEMIRAMIS HOTEL, LOCATION OF PRESS CENTER, AND READ TO ASSEMBLED NEWSMEN THE COMPLEMENTARY PRESS RELEASES ANNOUNCING RESUMPTION. ELIAS INDICATED HE WOULD PRECEDE BY READING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT IN BOTH ARABIC AND ENGLISH TO BE FOLLOWED BY ZIEGLER READING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT. (ELIAS SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY TRANSLATED TEXT GIVEN REF A INTO ARABIC AND THIS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS WHILE ZIEGLER MAKING HIS STATEMENT.)

2. ELIAS' RATIONALE FOR ABOVE PROCEDURE IS THAT PRESIDENTS DO NOT GO TO THE PRESS BUT RATHER THE PRESS COMES TO THEM. UNFORTUNATELY SIZE AND LOCATION OF SYRIAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE CANNOT COPE WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF PRESS. MORE-OVER SEMIRAMIS HOTEL HAS ALREADY BEEN SET UP FOR THE
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PRESS AND IT IS, ACCORDING TO ELIAS, EASIER, QUICKER

AND MORE COMFORTABLE FOR ALL CONCERNED THAT SYRIAN AND
AMERICAN PRESS SPOKESMEN PROCEED TO SEMIRAMIS FOR THIS
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. I TOLD ELIAS THAT I WOULD BE BACK TO HIM AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM IF THE ABOVE PROCEDURE IS ACCEPTABLE
OR TO MAKE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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